

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

6 SEPTEMBER 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. South Vietnam

a. Diem appears about to get some of the more controversial members of his family temporarily out of the country.

b. Madame Nhu has been named head of South Vietnam's delegation to an international conference in Belgrade next week.

c. If she goes at all, however, she may be away only for about ten days, and might well use the meeting as a forum for further provocative remarks.

d. Archbishop Thuc is said to be going to Rome. This is somewhat more doubtful, as Thuc's political power in Hue is increasing, and he is deeply involved in combating antigovernment sentiment at the University of Hue.

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2. Cuba - Communist China

a. Peiping continues to exploit indications that the Castro regime is not totally committed to Soviet positions.

b. On Wednesday, a Peiping broadcast quoted generously from an article by Che Guevara which urged all the people of Latin America to unite for a "head-on struggle against imperialist power."

(Cont'd)

c. The article appears to echo Castro's 1962 "Second Declaration of Havana," which Moscow-oriented Communists criticized for its failure to stress the possibilities of peaceful movement toward communism.

d. Guevara's statements will further complicate Cuba's position in the Sino-Soviet dispute, already muddled by Castro's militant 26 July speech and Cuba's failure to sign the test-ban treaty.

3. Laos

a. The loss of an Air America plane to ground fire yesterday will dim even further Souvanna's chances of getting his coalition government together in Vientiane before he goes abroad on Monday.

b. The plane was on a rice-drop mission. The Pathet Lao claim such flights do not have the approval of the tripartite government.

c. Souphannouvong once threatened to shoot down any US aircraft that overflew "his" territory. No US-chartered planes have been lost to enemy fire since January, however, although many have reported ground fire while flying over Pathet Lao-held territory.

4. Yemen

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5. Sino-Soviet Dispute

a. Yesterday's People's Daily article lays all that has gone wrong with the Communist movement at Moscow's door..

b. Khrushchev is depicted as the chief culprit, and his denunciation of Stalin in his secret 1956 speech to the 20th Congress of the Soviet party is said to have started "the differences."

c. All the top Chinese leadership is carefully associated with the views expressed, as if to refute charges that it is divided. (Cont'd)

d. Peiping's determination to go it alone is evident, but the Chinese try to preserve the outer shell of unity, and indicate that any further widening of the rift will be up to Moscow.

e. Especially in view of the personal attack on Khrushchev, Moscow will probably feel compelled to reply in kind.

NOTES

A. Greece-Cuba Prime Minister Pipinelis has informed Ambassador Labouisse that a royal decree prohibiting Greek-flag ships from bringing cargo away from Cuba is being readied for the king's signature. Pipinelis and other Greek officials said the government would do its utmost to enforce this and some already existing decrees, although they felt certain aspects of them were unconstitutional.

B. Cuba-US

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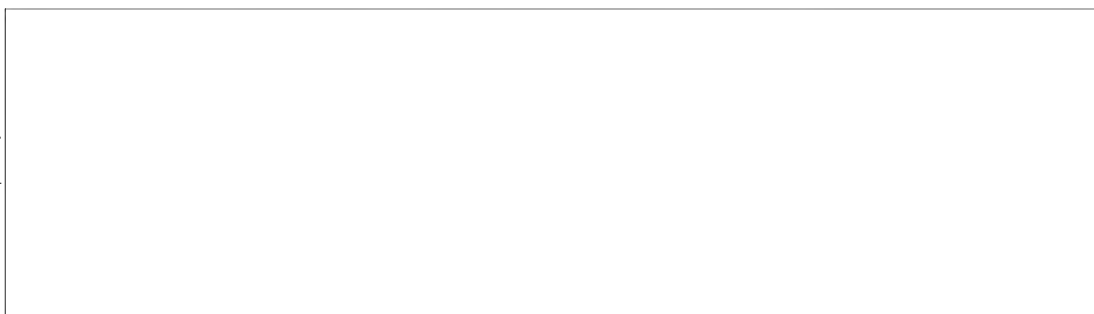
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C. Venezuela Communist-led FALN terrorists are stepping up efforts to provoke the armed forces to oust Betancourt before the November elections. They apparently hope that a military junta would be easier to topple than Betancourt's relatively democratic regime. They have attacked security force installations in daylight three times in the last ten days, and further damaged US-owned petroleum installations. Security measures have been stiffened, and the government may, reluctantly, resort to martial law in the more vulnerable areas.

D. Japan-Communist China

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